

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 31:

-- In one aspect of the invention, R_i and R_j are each, independently, alkyl, lipid, or steroid. In another aspect, R_i and R_j, together, form an alkyl, lipid, or steroid group. --

REMARKS

Claims 21, 23-27, 31-34, 38-41, 45-48, and 52 are pending. No claims have been amended, canceled or added. Each claim stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification to reasonably convey Applicant's possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.¹ Applicants traverse the rejection. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the prior amendment¹ defining R_i and R_j to include alkyl and steroid moieties constitutes new matter absent evidence to the contrary.

Such evidence is provided herein. The present application is a U.S. national filing that derives from International Patent Application PCT/US98/10804, filed on May 28, 1998, which claims priority to application Serial No. 08/864,765, filed on May 28, 1997 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/595,387, filed on February 1, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,773,571), which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/054,363, filed on April 26, 1993 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,539,082, the "082 patent"). The disclosure of group I at column 4, lines 42-47 of the 082 patent provides an exemplary basis for R_i and R_j of the instant invention being alkyl or steroid.² On page 3, lines 2-4 of the instant application, the 082 patent is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Thus, the claimed alkyl, steroid, and lipid groups were part of the filed specification. The foregoing amendments to the specification are consistent with this disclosure and are intended to enhance the clarity of the application. Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

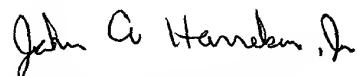
¹ The Office Action lists this amendment as being made on January 10, 2002. Applicants, however, believe that this refers to the September 19, 2001 amendment that was entered upon the filing of a Request for Continued Examination on February 26, 2002.

² At column 9, lines 2-5 of the 082 patent, a more general description of terminal ligands to PNA oligomers is presented.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections and an allowance of all of pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Harrelson, Jr.
Registration No. 42,637

Date: April 2, 2003

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 568-3100
Fax: (215) 568-3439

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Specification**

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 of the original specification:

In one aspect, the invention concerns peptide nucleic acids which are conjugated with a group selected from alkyl, lipid, and steroid.

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 31:

In one aspect of the invention, R_i and R_j are each, independently, alkyl, lipid, or steroid. In another aspect, R_i and R_j, together, form an alkyl, lipid, or steroid group.
Claims 21, 23-27, 31-34, 38-41, 45-48, and 52 are pending. No claims have been amended, canceled or added.